

THORNSBERRY et al
Appl. No. 09/987,693

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend independent claim 22 to include therein limitations from now-cancelled dependent claims 3 and 20.
2. Amend independent claim 23 to include therein limitations from now-cancelled dependent claim 21.
3. Cancel claims 2 - 3, 20 - 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

While disagreeing with the rejections of the final office action, Applicants have amended the two pending (not withdrawn) independent claims in a manner to overcome the extant rejections. Applicants do not accede to the rejections, but instead reserve the right to contest the rejections in a continuation application. The current amendment is for the purpose of obtaining claims of the scope now stated, and is not to be construed as an admission with respect to any claims of broader scope which may also be sought in other applications.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

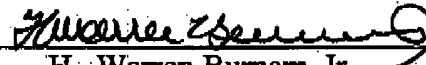
Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



H. Warren Burnam, Jr.

Reg. No. 29,366

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